Besides, Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to provide an enabling environment for the industry to meet the emerging global competition and thereby increase India's exports. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(ii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(iv) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

(c) and (d) In order to encourage investments in the knitted and hosiery sector, the Government increased SSI investment limit for these items from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crores. The Budget Speech (2004-2005) has mentioned that 85 items from various sector can be safely taken out of the reserved list. The items to be taken out of the reserved list are yet to be announce.

National Youth Festival

395. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government organizes a National Youth Festival every year,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria for young people who can participate in this National Youth Festival;

(d) whether State Governments are encouraged to hold State-level youth Festivals; and

(e) if so, the details of incentives given to State Governments to hold such State-level Youth Festivals?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SUNIL DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Every year National Youth Festival is organized from 12-16 January to commemorate the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda in collaboration with one of the States willing to host such festival. The Central Government and host State Government share the expenditure in the ratio 50:50 subject to a ceiling of Rs. 1.00 crore in so far as the Central Government's assistance is concerned. The youth from all over the country take part in the festival. National Youth Festival is organized to propagate the concept of national integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood, courage & adventure. Competitive and non-competitive events as well as cultural programmes are also organized to enable youth to display their talent.

(c) All State Governments/Union Territory Administrations are expected to send contingents of 75 young persons in the age group of 13-35 years in the National Youth Festival.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Central Government provides assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for holding State-level Youth Festivals. Last year funds were released to following State Governments for organizing State-level Youth Festival.

Sl. No.	State	Amount released (Rs.)
1.	Tripura	1,12,500.00
2.	Bihar	1,50,000.00
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	75,000.00
4.	Chhattisgarh	1,50,000.00
5.	Uttraanchal	1,50,000.00
6.	Haryana	1,50,000.00
7.	Andhra Pradesh	1,50,000.00
8.	Nagaland	1,12,500.00
9.	Assam	1,12,500.00
10.	UT of Daman & Diu	75,000.00
11.	Manipur	1,12,500.00
12.	Uttar Pradesh	2,25,000.00
	TOTAL :	15,75,000.00